1991, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/482,005, filed February 16, 1990, abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-46.

Please add Claims 47-57.

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A reagent for detecting the presence of a point mutation in which a first nucleic acid residue is replaced by a second nucleic acid residue different from the first nucleic acid residue at a defined site within a gene of interest, comprising an oligonuclectide of sufficient length to act as primer for an enzyme catalyzed chain extension nucleic acid polymerization reacting, said oligonucleotide primer comprising an attachment moiety through which the detection primer can be immobilized and having a sequence which is complementary to a region of the gene of interest beginning with the nucleotide residue immediately adjacent to and toward the 3' end of the gene from the defined site and extending away from the defined site toward the 3 / and of the gene, the 5' end of the oligonucleotide primer being complementary to the nucleotide residue immediately adjacent to and to the 3' side of the nucleotide residue at the defined site, whereby enzyme catalyzed chain extension nucleic acid polymerization will commence by adding a nucleic acid residue complementary to either the first nucleic residue or the second nucleic acid residue, wherein when the reagent hybridizes with the gene,